

Message Text

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73

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 SAJ-01

/060 W

----- 126164

R 301427Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3261

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LISBON 3671

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PO

SUBJ: PIDE ESCAPE

1. ESTIMATED 88 MEMBERS OF PIDE/DGS (OLD REGIME'S SECRET POLICE) ESCAPED FROM MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON OF ALCOENTRE, 30 MILES NORTH OF LISBON, AFTERNOON JUNE 29. AS OF EARLY MORNING JUNE 30 ELEVEN REPORTEDLY HAD BEEN RECAPTURED.

2. ESCAPE OCCURRED SOMETIME BETWEEN 2 AND 6 PM, HOURS AT WHICH PRISON CHECKS ROUTINELY MADE. AUTHORITIES SURMISE PRISONERS ESCAPED VIA JERRY-BUILT LADDER MADE OF PLASTIC ROPES, METAL BARS, AND WOODEN SLATS. ALTHOUGH PRISON IS NEW, MODERN AFFAIR, AND SUPPOSEDLY ESCAPE PROOF, EVIDENTLY NOT ALL SECURITY SYSTEMS ARE YET FUNCTIONING. IN ADDITION -- AND FOR UNEXPLAINED REASON - PRISON'S INTERNAL TV SYSTEM WAS

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DISCONNECTED A WEEK AGO.

3. ELEMENTS SHOWING PREPLANNING: ASIDE FROM LARGE NUMBER OF ESCAPEES, EASE WITH WHICH ESCAPE MADE BEFORE BEING DETECTED, AND AVAILABILITY OF MATERIALS FOR CONSTRUCTING LADDER, ONE OTHER ASPECT SHOWING PREPLANNING IS SILENCE OF REMAINING SECRET POLICE PRISONERS WHO HAVE REFUSED EITHER TO IDENTIFY THEMSELVES OF ESCAPED COLLEAGUES. FIGURE OF 88 ESCAPEES ACCORDINGLY IS ESTIMATE ONLY. PRISON REPORTEDLY HELD 843 FORMER PIDE AGENTS.
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Message Attributes

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